

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TOKYO 08173 290456 Z

14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
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R 281100 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4892
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T TOKYO 8173

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR JA VN VS
SUBJ: JAPAN AND DRV

REF: TOKYO 6655; TOKYO 8076

1. DURING COUTESTY CALL JUNE 28, FOREIGN MINISTER OHIRA
READING FROM PREPARED STATEMENT INFORMED ME THAT GOJ
PLANNING TO APPROACH DRV SOON WITH PROPOSAL TO BEGIN NEGO-
TIATIONS FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS IN MID- JULY
IN PARIS. HE EXPLAINED THAT GOJ WISHED TO MAINTAIN PAST
PRACTICE OF CONSULTING CLOSELY WITH USG ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. OHIRA OFFERED FOLLOWING REASONS FOR WISHING TO BEGIN
NEGOTIATIONS. FIRST, GOJ BELIEVES THAT PEACEFUL
COEXISTENCE OF NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM IS INDISPENSABLE
TO REGIONAL STABILITY AND THAT RECOGNITION OF DRV AS MEMBER
OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY BY OPENING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
WOULD HOPEFULLY ENABLE JAPAN TO EXERT SOME POSITIVE INFLUENCE
ON DRV IN DIRECTION OF ADOPTING MORE PEACEFUL DOMESTIC AND
FORIEGN POLICIES. SECOND, OHIRA SAID GOJ INTENDS TO NEGOTIATE
NORMALIZATION WITHOUT CONDITIONS, BUT ADDED THAT OTHER SIDE
HAS NOT YET SAID THAT IT WOULD ALSO NEGOTIATE ON
UNCONDITIONAL BASIS. OHIRA EXPLAINED THAT GOJ INTENDS TO
MAINTAIN PRESENT FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH GVN AND HAS NO
INTENTION TO RECOGNIZE PRG. THIRD, OHIRA SAID THAT NORMALIZA-
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TION OF RELATIONS WITH DRV WOULD FACILITATE GOJ EFFORTS TO OVERCOME DOMESTIC JAPANESE OPINION OPPOSED TO AID TO GVN. FINALLY, OHIRA SAID THAT GOJ IN WISHING TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT COMPROMISE CAN BE REACHED SOON AND FEELS UNDER NO COMPULSION TO MAKE HASTE. HE NOTED THAT GOJ WISHES TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS WITH TARGET DATE FOR NORMALIZATION THIS FALL.

3. IN REITERATING THAT GOJ ONLY CONSIDERING APPROACH TO DRV TO PROPOSE OPENING NEGOTIATIONS, OHIRA SAID THAT GOJ DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER DRV WILL RESPOND.

4. AT SEPARATE SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING, VICE MINISTER HOGEN RAISED SAME MATTER WITH ME, READING FROM SAME PAPER USED BY OHIRA. ASKED IF GOJ INTENDS TO ANNOUNCE GOJ INTENTIONS TO PRESS, HOGEN SAID NOT UNTIL USG INFORMED OF GOJ'S ATTITUDE, AFTER WHICH GOJ WOULD CONSIDER WHEN IT APPROPRIATE TO INFORM PRESS.
INGERSOLL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO08173
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750008-0154
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730630/aaaajqao.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 73 TOKYO 6655, 73 TOKYO 8076
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Nov-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980227
Subject: JAPAN AND DRV
TAGS: PFOR, JA, VN, VS, DRV
To: ES
S/S
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005